Remarks

Claims 1-2, 4-7, 9-16 and 18-19 are pending. Claims 1 and 8 have been combined. Claim 1 as amended further specifies that the water-soluble glass may comprise at least one metallic ion. There is basis for this amendment at page 7, lines 9 to 11 of the specification as filed. Claims 3 and 8 have been cancelled.

The term "at least" has been deleted from Claim 2.

Claims 6, 9, 10 and 13 as amended refer to "water-soluble glass". Antecedent basis for the amendment appears in Claim 1.

Claim 11, as amended, refers to "a boron-containing compound" rather than "boron". Support for this amendment appears at page 6, lines 13 to 14 of the specification as filed.

Minor amendments of an editorial nature have been made to claims 12, 13 and 19.

Respectfully submitted,

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